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FROM THE COEUR D'ALENE PRESS

College enrollment numbers mixed

NIC, LCSC-Cd'A figures increase while UI-Cd'A sees slight decline

COEUR d'ALENE -- Fall enrollment is up at North Idaho College and Lewis-Clark State College-Coeur d'Alene while the number of students enrolled at University of Idaho's Coeur d'Alene center declined.

The schools reported their 10th day semester enrollment totals earlier this week.

NIC saw a 4.4 percent increase in enrollment raising the community college's total student head count to a record 4,856.

"A record number of students continue to enroll at North Idaho College, taking the skills, training and education they've gained back into the community as members of our workforce," said NIC President Priscilla Bell in a press release issued Wednesday. "Higher numbers at North Idaho College ultimately translate to a stronger local economy. We are proud to fulfill this crucial role in our community."

NIC transfer programs were up 3.6 percent from 2,628 last fall to 2,723 this year in full-time equivalency. Although the total headcount in professional-technical programs was down slightly, dropping from 563 to 558, full-time equivalency in professional-technical programs increased 3.9 percent from 436 to 453 this fall.

The University of Idaho's Coeur d'Alene campus saw a 13.3 percent decrease in enrollment this year, a sharp contrast to the 18.7 percent jump in enrollment the university saw in Coeur d'Alene in the fall of 2007.

UI-CdA's 10th day enrollment this semester is 397.

"This year we didn't get as many people registered at this point in time," said Dr. Larry Branen, UI's associate vice president for North Idaho.

Branen said the university doesn't pay as much attention to the 10th day enrollment numbers at the centers outside its main campus in Moscow because many students, especially those who attend part-time or are taking professional development courses, continue to enroll later into the semester.

"We anticipate the numbers will come back to where they were a year ago by the end of the semester," Branen said.

At LCSC-Cd'A, the student population grew by 6.2 percent. The college reported an increase of 21 students and a head count of 362. The college's record head count of 367 was recorded in the fall of 2005.

"Lewis-Clark State College-Cd'A is the best bachelor's degree value in North Idaho. Our partnership with North Idaho College provides a quality educational experience," said Cyndie Hammond, LCSC's regional director in Coeur d'Alene. "LCSC works to inform Region I residents of the benefits of post-secondary education in academic areas and professional-technical skills. We are delighted to be part of a college/university collaboration that is committed to serving students, and our enrollment numbers indicate that students are also delighted with that collaboration."

FROM THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

No education news stories posted online today.

FROM THE MOSCOW PULLMAN DAILY NEWS (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

Daley-Laursen: UI to pause all hiring

Updated at: 16:09 pm

University of Idaho President Stephen Daley-Laursen said today the university will pause hiring and leave vacant positions open to save money to be used in other areas of the university.

All positions that are currently in the process of being filled will be filled, but future vacancies will be left open, he said.

Daley-Laursen made this announcement during Wednesday's fall president's address at the Moscow campus.

Daley-Laursen said he doesn't yet know how much money the UI hopes to save during the hiring pause. He said the university's finance office will run those numbers Wednesday.

He doesn't yet know what the strategic investments will be, but he said faculty will have a leadership role in determining where to put the money.

Daley-Laursen said Provost Doug Baker will lead groups of faculty as the university reevaluates departments and programs on campus. He said the goal was to find those areas within the university where strategic emphasis could be placed.

UI's enrollment numbers climb

University reports first boost since 2003
By Halley Griffin, Daily News staff writer

Posted on: Wednesday, September 10, 2008

Overall enrollment numbers are up at the University of Idaho for the first time since 2003.

A total of 10,667 students are enrolled at the UI's Moscow campus for the fall semester, according to the university's official 10-day count. That's an increase of 118 students over last fall's head count of 10,549 students.

University of Idaho officials reported a statewide total of 11,791 students, compared to 11,636 students in fall 2007.

Washington State University spokesman Robert Strenge said the university's 10-day enrollment numbers wouldn't be available until Friday at the earliest.

UI Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Jeanne Christiansen attributes the growth to more focused and strategic outreach efforts employed by the university over the past three to four years.

"I think we've turned the corner on enrollment," Christiansen said.

From 2003 to 2007, overall enrollment at the UI decreased by 5.51 percent. Idaho State University saw a similar decrease, while Boise State University saw a 6.72-percent increase over the same period. Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston saw an increase of 7.89 percent over the period.

The UI's freshman enrollment numbers are up 4.7 percent, according to numbers provided by Christiansen and the Idaho State Board of Education.

Christiansen said the UI expects to continue to see moderate growth in the coming years.

"We have been very focused on several areas," she said. "We know that we offer a high quality academic program at the UI. We are also very committed to access to students throughout the state."

One area of focus for the university was to increase scholarships for students who excel academically. This year the UI offered more scholarships to National Merit Finalists and Scholars, and Idaho students who graduated from high school with at least a 3.5 grade-point average.

According to UI reports, 42 percent of this year's freshman class had a high school grade-point average of at least 3.5, and 31 freshmen were National Merit Finalists.

Christiansen said the UI also made a commitment this year to increase stipends for graduate students and enhance outreach programs for students in American Indian and Hispanic communities.

"It's an ongoing process. I feel like we're more strategic and focused in our efforts," Christiansen said. "We've really worked to develop strategies to get where we are today."

FROM THE LEWISTON TRIBUNE (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

UI announces freeze on new hires

Interim president says new priorities will be set for university's limited resources

By Joel Mills

Thursday, September 11, 2008

University of Idaho interim President Steven Daley-Laursen talks to those in attendance Wednesday for the president's fall address.

MOSCOW - The University of Idaho will freeze hiring during the fall semester as it prepares for its latest reallocation of scarce resources.

"We are entering a pretty intense period for decisions," interim President Steven Daley-Laursen said during his first fall address to the statewide university community.

He said short-term decisions like the hiring freeze were made during university leadership retreats during the past couple of weeks. The idea came from the College of Education, but Daley-Laursen said it was good medicine for the university as a whole.

The provost's council, led by Chief Academic Officer Doug Baker, will join with vice presidents to create specific criteria for future hiring decisions in administration, faculty and staff positions, he said.

Current searches will be completed, but vacant positions won't be filled until next year at the earliest.

Former President Tim White undertook a major restructuring early in his tenure, including laying off 27 people and eliminating 40 vacant positions in 2005 for a budget reduction of \$4 million.

Daley-Laursen wasn't able to say how much money the freeze would save, but he did say it was time for the UI to again examine its priorities.

He mentioned a two-year plan devised by the Faculty Council budget committee.

"I don't think we can wait that long," he said, calling for the process to be compressed into the fall semester.

Instead, the university should be able to identify areas for both increased and decreased funding before the end of the year, and work those proposals through Faculty Council and the State Board of Education in the spring.

Washington State University took a similar approach last spring, slowing faculty hiring and reducing classes by 20 percent.

There are other areas aside from academics that will be subject to reallocation of funds, Daley-Laursen said. He didn't offer any specifics during Wednesday's address at the administration building auditorium, but said announcements would be made in the coming weeks.

Daley-Laursen also addressed athletics. He said the UI needs to figure out how to better support its coaches so they would stay in Moscow longer. Coaches in several sports have moved on or been fired in recent years as UI teams have struggled to be competitive.

Part of that support is fixing the Kibbie Dome, he said. Earlier this year, the university proposed a \$52 million makeover of the iconic sports arena. About \$17 million of that total is for mandatory safety improvements that will be paid for with debt financing.

But the remaining \$35 million is for cosmetic upgrades like restaurants and luxury boxes, and will have to be funded through donations.

Daley-Laursen said progress is being made on that front. He said overall giving has increased by 52 percent over the past year, largely due to the hiring of many new fundraisers.

The UI is in the middle of the silent phase of a multi-year, \$300 million capital campaign, the largest in state history for a public university.

Constitution display at UI engages visitors

Thursday, September 11, 2008

MOSCOW - Visitors to the University of Idaho Library's annual display in honor of Constitution Day Wednesday will be asked if they would have signed the historic document.

The exhibit, on display in the foyer of the first floor of the library through Sept. 30, will allow anyone the opportunity to sign the Constitution on scroll papers. The papers will become part of the exhibit.

The content of the original Constitution will be available for reading, and a number of pocket copies of the current document, including all the amendments, also will be on hand. The U.S. Constitution was signed by 39 men who changed the course of history on Sept. 17, 1787.

The University of Idaho Library is the Regional Depository Library in Idaho for U.S. government documents. Historic and recent documents and other library materials related to the

Constitution have been compiled for this exhibit by staff of the Government Documents department of the library.

FROM THE IDAHO-PRESS TRIBUNE, NAMPA

Arts Charter celebrates it's new school

EDUCATION: Expansion with new addition this summer provides more space, amenities for students

By Alisa Angelakis

aangelakis@idahopress.com

NAMPA — The Idaho Arts Charter School celebrated the completion of its new school Wednesday with music, a release of white doves and the landing and tour of a Black Hawk helicopter.

“I want to say how happy I am to live in a country that allows free choice in education,” Principal Jackie Collins said.

The school’s audition choir performed the “Star Spangled Banner,” the band played various pieces and the third-grade class stood from the crowd to perform a song with the orchestra.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna, Nampa Mayor Tom Dale and others spoke about the benefits of a charter school.

“There’s a lot of talent in this school,” Luna said. “It’s fitting that we have an Idaho Arts Charter School for students who are interested in pursuing the arts. And that’s what choice in education is all about. I believe parents are far more qualified to decide where their students go to school than any bureaucrat in Idaho or Washington D.C.”

Dale spoke of the power school choice gives parents.

“This school started with an idea of a different kind of school that gave parents the choice to put their children in a school that wasn’t traditional,” he said. “The power of an idea can cause a revolution in thinking, in knowledge, in government, and change the political structure in the world.”

FROM THE IDAHO STATESMAN

Boise School District trustees to search for next superintendent

Edition Date: 09/11/08

Boise School District trustees will start searching in about six months for a superintendent to replace Stan Olson, who has announced he will not seek to renew his contract when it expires in two years.

Olson has served as district superintendent since 2002. Trustees voted last winter to renew his contract for two years, but Olson said this week he won't seek another extension.

Trustee Nancy Gregory said the search for the next superintendent will include national and local candidates.

"We have very qualified, very capable people in-house," she said.

FROM THE TWIN FALLS TIMES-NEWS

No education news stories posted online today.

FROM THE IDAHO STATE JOURNAL (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

No education news stories posted online today.

FROM THE IDAHO FALLS POST REGISTER (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

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